

La Rionda Cottage
1218-1220 Burgundy Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

HABS No. La. 192

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Louisiana

Historic American Buildings Survey
Richard Koch, District Officer
Queen and Crescent Building, New Orleans, Louisiana

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

La Rionda Cottage
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Louisiana, Orleans Parish (County), New Orleans
1218-1220 Burgundy St. (South-East side)

The present owner is the City of New Orleans, and the present use is as a shelter house for the Cabrini Playground which occupies the north-east half of the square, extending along Barracks St. from Dauphine St. to Burgundy.

Built in 1811 by Antonio La Rionda, the property was acquired in 1812 by the widow of Jean Joseph Rousset, in 1829 by Francois Correjolis, and in 1887 by Medard H. Nelson, "a man of color." The Nelson family owned the property until it was expropriated by the city for its present use, in 1939. This data was secured from the Conveyance Office Books and the Notarial Records in the Civil District Courthouse in New Orleans. The cottage was completely restored by the city in 1940, under the supervision of Richard Koch.

An enclosed porch had been added to the rear of the cottage; this was removed, and the rear rebuilt in accordance with the rear of the cottage at 931-33 St. Philip St., HABS No. La. 160, which, according to the Census of 1805, was then occupied by Louis Dellirole. This house is the same type of cottage as the La Rionda Cottage. The two-story service building in the rear of the courtyard was demolished.

From the Nelson family it was learned that some members of the family had conducted a school in the two-story building, but the exact date is not available.

Further data might be obtained by reference to old City Directories and Obituary rolls in the New Orleans Public Library, and also to the Cemetery rolls in the Louisiana State Museum Library, 547 St. Ann At., New Orleans.

Prepared by Georgia Bertha Drennan
New Orleans, Louisiana June, 1958

Descriptive Data

This is a one-story, brick cemented cottage, as it was before restoration. The dimensions are 29'-0" x 40'-9" and it has four rooms arranged in a square. There was an open loggia across the rear, with a small cabinet at one end and a kitchen at the other end. In the restoration, the kitchen was replaced by a small cabinet, to match the existing one, and the loggia on the open side was supplied with two arches with a central column. The house faces north-west, on the south-east side of Burgundy St.

This is a typical small cottage of the Vieux Carré. The front wall is directly on the property line, and each of the two front rooms has a door and a window opening on the sidewalk. All doors and windows have wooden shutters, and all hardware is handmade. As it was before the adjacent houses were demolished to make room for the playground, there was a 3'-6" alley on each side of the cottage. Two rooms opened on each alley, each with a door. One alley was closed on the street end by a seven foot board fence, the other by a wooden door.

There are no dormers on this cottage, either now or before the restoration. There are two chimneys on the central wall going from front to back, each giving a fireplace to two rooms. There is a gable roof with a sidewalk overhang, the gables being at each side of the cottage.